

**Sec. 1604 Rule
Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002
FACT SHEET**

November 22, 2002

HERE'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE:

Need to create some exceptions to the limitation set in Sec. 1604.

First, need to be sure individuals and entities are not excluded who wish to participate in title II conservation programs who have lands that include significant ecological resources. Three examples of lands with "significant ecological resources," include, but are not limited to:

1. Lands with listed species, habitats that support listed species, or wildlife corridors that connect habitats on other properties;
2. Lands that collect snow melt, provide the headwaters for our rivers and streams, include riparian habitats important for spawning, or are important for ground water recharge, water quality improvement or protection, or maintaining or restoring natural hydrological patterns; and
3. Lands that lie adjacent to or in close proximity to public lands and/or properties with existing conservation easements and provide opportunities for compatible management practices to complement and support the ecological values of these public and/or conservation lands.

Second, need to be sure that individuals and entities are not excluded that are, or can be, part of a regional environmental initiative, particularly in cases where participation by these individuals or entities is important to the success of the environmental initiative.

TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE, CONTACT:

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Stewardship America is a nonprofit research and education organization working to advance initiatives that will engender a thriving rural economy, with an economically robust agriculture, a healthy natural environment, viable rural communities, and safe, abundant supplies of food and fiber.